THE CROWN

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 7 | JANUARY 12, 2005 | REDEEMER'S STUDENT VOICE

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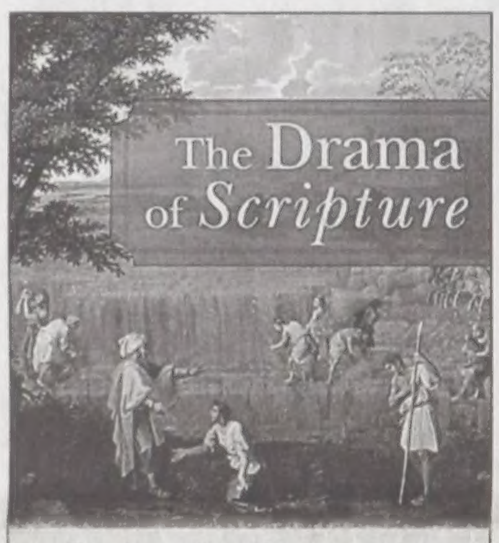
Bartholomew and Goheen Launch New Books

Redeemer community celebrates another major milestone in its history

BY ANDREW VIS

On the final day of classes last semester, members of the Redeemer community assembled to commemorate two stunning academic achievements. Amid the flurry of students scrambling to finish last-minute papers, over 150 faculty, staff, students, and visitors gathered in the front foyer to celebrate the launch of *The Drama of Scripture* and *Out of Egypt*.



In *The Drama of Scripture*, ProfessorsCraig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen provide a rich introduction to the Bible as a single grand story. Their book, which was designed as a first-year Religion 101 textbook, details the six acts of the Bible (creation, sin, Israel, Christ, church, new creation), while maintaining a strong emphasis on the role Christians today have to play in the Biblical story.

Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation is the fifth volume in the *Scripture and Hermeneutics Series*. The series, which is edited by Craig Bartholomew, seeks to renew Biblical studies in such a way that it helps, rather than hinders, the church to read Scripture as the Word of God. This particular volume focuses on Biblical theology, and it tries to grasp Scripture in its totality according to its own categories.

The festivities began in late afternoon with splendid food platters and the music of a string quartet. Many milled around, enjoying good conversation, a pleasant atmosphere, and free snacks. Doug Loney officially opened the book launch with a few words of welcome and a short prayer. He called the books a "tremendous accomplishment," and he drew special attention to the need to rejoice in such an achievement.

In a brief address, Redeemer President Justin Cooper emphasized Redeemer's mission, not only to teach students, but also to support scholarship and creative endeavour. He highlighted Redeemer's place, alongside three other prominent institutions, as a partner in the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar. He stated, "May we celebrate the fruits. May there be an increase. To God be the glory!"

Dr. Craig Bartholomew boxes the ears of Dr. Michael Goheen at the community launch of their new book, *The Drama of Scripture*. Perhaps Bartholomew is demonstrating the tactics he used during the writing of the book to ensure that, whenever the two authors differed in opinion, Goheen's ideas were relegated to the footnotes, as Bartholomew joked in his speech. JENNIFER WEENING

Religion Professor Al Wolters expressed his gratitude to Bartholomew and Goheen for their diligent work. An approach to the Bible as a single narrative is gener-

SEE "*DRAMA*," PAGE 4

Campus Network Problems Nearly Patched

Preventing future complications requires cooperation of staff, students

BY STEVE VELDKAMP

It's an old, old story as far as we Redeemer students are concerned: access to the Internet is consistent only in its inconsistency.

Kitty Murray student residents have never known Internet stability. Their first two months were Internet-free thanks to promises from a wireless Internet company that could not be kept. After this, every other student became reacquainted with their Internet dependence. This displeasure began roughly around the start of paper season, when a computer virus plagued the main building's network until the beginning of Christmas break. Further complications due to the dated and inefficient setup of the network between campus computers and the Internet service provider have continued to slow down, and even prevent, Internet connectivity.

But Information Services Director Chris Knowles assures *The Crown* that things are "on the up and up"—that is, the most recent cause of instability, another virus strike, has been pinpointed, and a simpler, more stable network is on its way.

What can be expected from the network in a few days—perhaps even as you read this? Unless you're willing to properly use and maintain your computer (or find someone who can), don't expect anything. Owning a computer comes with a multitude of responsibilities, such as properly setting and keeping programs up to date and using antivirus software. Even if just a handful of students neglect this responsibility, the campus network could once again quickly collapse.

If your dorm hasn't already done so, have the RA or HA visit Tony Wiersma (in Computer Services), who will provide a CD with programs to protect your computer—and the network. Antivirus and anti-spyware programs are must-haves, and getting all the updates available for your version of Windows is crucial.

Moreover, every student has the responsibility of reporting network problems to Computer Services (for example, when the Internet is down or email can't be accessed). If you live in a dorm, have your RA or HA call on behalf of your whole dorm.

File sharing, while mainly known for its perceived conveniences and ethical implications, is also dangerous for your computer if it is used in ignorance. If you don't know how to use shared files, get a friend to make sure that no one besides you can write on your shared folders, otherwise your computer will be a prime breeding ground for a nasty virus.

Finally, if you wish to install any new network device, especially one for wireless Internet, call Computer Services to make sure it is set up in a way that doesn't conflict with other settings on the network.

Of course, it wasn't only the students that caused last semester's problems. So what exactly went wrong? If it isn't obvious, there was more than one cause. Especially detrimental was Anthony Schmidt's departure, which left Computer Services a person short until Walter VanderKolk arrived and became familiar with the network. It was during this time that "The Virus," a.k.a. "F-bot," wreaked havoc.

The second problem was also related to the virus attack: a hesitancy to install the Windows XP Service Pack 2 update because of reported problems from multitudes of users across the Internet. This patch was actually more necessary than harmful, covering up programming flaws so big that not even antivirus software could prevent F-bot from attacking unpatched computers.

A third problem was a recently recognized inefficiency in our network setup and a rush to correct it before Christmas break (i.e. during exams). While the result is a much simpler and faster setup, there are kinks to be worked out.

Consistent Internet access appears to be on its way after several long weeks of tough problems. Information Services won't hesitate to admit that mistakes were made on their part. But they are justified in refusing to take all the blame. Each student's computer is first and foremost his or her responsibility, and neglecting that responsibility only provides an opportunity for new problems, not to mention making the resolution of other problems an even greater nightmare than they should be. A stable network requires the cooperation of both Computer Services and every student. It isn't just a pipe dream, even at Redeemer.

World Mourns Tragic Loss in Asia

Disaster spurs worldwide financial generosity, but rebuilding lives takes time

BY TRACY VOORBERG

The news from Southeast Asia keeps getting worse: unsanitary conditions, people without food, and a rising death toll. And more lives could be claimed in the weeks and months to come.

No wonder relief agencies are working so hard to bring aid as quickly as possible. With each passing day, the likelihood increases that waterborne illnesses and malaria will cause an epidemic.

In the midst of unprecedented devastation, the international community has been incredibly generous. Whether by giving to canvassers and relief agencies or helping to organize donations, people have opened their wallets and have given their time to help victims of the tsunami.

The scope of this disaster is unprecedented: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, southern India, Thailand, Malaysia, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Burma, Mauritius, Somalia, Kenya, Seychelles, and Tanzania. Relatives of tourists who were in the area at the time, as well as immigrants from the devastated countries, have felt the effects of the disaster all over the world. It's clear that everyone feels the need and desires to help out: Canadians donated $7 million to the Red Cross for relief work in southeast Asia during the two days following the tsunami.

For now, the most important needs are clean water, food, medical supplies, and sanitation materials. Relief agencies are working around the clock to ensure that the supplies go where they are needed most urgently.

The Canadian Red Cross had been working in southeast Asia prior to the disaster, particularly in Sri Lanka, where they distributed clean water, shelter materials, sanitation supplies, and medicine. Within 48 hours of the disaster, a plane took off containing 25 tonnes of plastic sheeting, water containers, and water purification tablets.

World Vision has also sent two cargo planes of supplies to the stricken areas, in conjunction with Air Canada, and has aid workers working on the ground in these areas. They have set a fundraising goal of $50 million.

Canada's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) was also deployed last Thursday; it is comprised of 200 Canadian soldiers, including doctors and engineers. DART is being sent to eastern Sri Lanka, its biggest job being to pro-

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SOUTH-EAST ASIA TSUNAMI: PAGE 5

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COMMENTARY

The Secret to Keeping Your New Year's Resolutions

Editorial

BY JENNIFER WEENING

I recently read somewhere a suggestion that went something like this: in order to avoid the feelings of failure that come along with breaking New Year's resolutions, we should just resolve to gain ten pounds and exercise less. Of course, setting goals like that really begs the question of why we make resolutions in the first place.

The start of a new year and, for university students, a new academic semester, is an ideal time to reflect on and evaluate the year gone by. We make resolutions as a way of convincing ourselves that this year is going to be better than the previous one and that this particular year will be the one when our lives change for the better, or we finally become "happy" or "satisfied."

Goalsguy.com is a website that attempts to help people reach the goals they set. The site lists the top ten most common New Year's resolutions:

1. Lose weight
2. Stop smoking
3. Stick to a budget
4. Save or earn more money
5. Find a better job
6. Become more organized
7. Exercise more
8. Be more patient at work and with others
9. Eat better
10. Become a better person

There is nothing very surprising on this list. People tend to have common areas in their lives that need improvement, which is why making New Year's resolutions has come to be seen as a joke for many people. Nobody expects others to keep their resolutions—but why is this? Why do we seem to have such a hard time sticking to our resolutions?

Experts list plenty of reasons. Most commonly, we tend to make the wrong kind of resolutions, and we expect instant, life-changing results. An article in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* gives some helpful tips on how to make resolutions and keep them.

Experts recommend setting smaller, more short-term goals rather than broad, unspecific resolutions. It is easy to resolve to lose weight, but "losing weight" is an abstract, intangible idea. Resolving instead to lose the ten pounds you put on since the summer or to fit back into a certain pair of pants is a more concrete, attainable goal. Our resolutions should be realistic and practical. Rather than simply resolving to become more organized, we should set goals to organize one drawer or cupboard each week. Rather than resolving to eat better, we should instead plan to replace our afternoon snack of cookies with fruit or yogurt. Moving in incremental steps and setting new goals as we go along are important.

Setbacks and disappointments are unavoidable when working toward improvements in various areas of life. Experts advise not to become discouraged when faced with delays in progress. Too often, people expect their goals to be fulfilled within a week or a month. But real change takes time and, in some cases, demands an entire lifestyle adjustment.

The most important aspect in keeping resolutions is accountability of friends and family. It is much easier to stick to a workout regimen when you do it with a friend. Letting your dorm-mates know that you are trying to avoid watching too much television will share some of the responsibility with them. Living in a Christian community, we should have a real understanding of the importance of accountability. "Bearing one another's burdens" should be our daily reality.

> Typical New Year's resolutions tend to ignore the importance of the working of the Spirit; instead, they focus on the individual's ability to transform his or her own life, body, or attitude.

However, all this expert advice on how to make and keep New Year's resolutions really leads one to think about the place of resolutions in our Christian lives. The New Year's tradition of setting goals and seeking to achieve them brings with it the worldly ideas of the importance of material prosperity, physical beauty, personal charisma, and financial success.

Advice on how to make goals and dreams a reality, like that found on websites like goalsguy.com, mygoals.com, and hiaspire.com, encourages people with the humanistic notion that the power to change themselves comes from within. William Romanowski, in his book *Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture*, calls this the "Wizard of Oz syndrome": "Although they don't know it," he explains, "Dorothy and her friends have *within themselves* everything they need to secure their fate; their journey on the Yellow Brick Road brings them to that realization. Ultimately, they have no real need of the Wizard, a God figure whose pyrotechnical visage is unmasked, revealing only a bumbling old man" (114). This humanistic worldview is clearly the foundation on which these goal-setting and dream-achieving companies are based.

The Reformed view of our utter inability to do any good on our own is an idea that is completely rejected by our culture. Ads for online dating services encourage you to "take your destiny into your own hands"; weight loss programs promise to help you "discover the new you"; fitness clubs will build you a flawless body. Television reality shows like *Extreme Makeover* demonstrate the power of individuals to overcome challenges that prevent them from living the good life.

As Christians, we take part in a constant process of renewal. Sanctification, which began when we accepted Christ as our Lord and Saviour, is continued through the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us that we are to be "transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Romans 12:2), and this process is lifelong. Typical New Year's resolutions tend to ignore the importance of the working of the Spirit; instead, they focus on the individual's ability to transform his or her own life, body, or attitude.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with evaluating our lives and recognizing the problem areas therein. As Christians, however, the goals we choose to set and the manner in which we go about realizing them should be informed by the Gospel. Rather than focusing on our physical appearance, for example, why don't we spend some time assessing the health of our relationship with God? And let's remember by whose strength we will achieve our goals, for "what is impossible with men is possible with God" (Luke 18:27).

Spiritually Alive in 2005

A call to bear fruit in lieu of embracing mere "Churchianity"

BY CAROLINE BULK

"Then [Jesus] told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

" " 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down' " " (Luke 13:6-9).

The message of this parable is rather straightforward: Christians who do not produce fruit are dispensable. God desires active persons who seek spiritual growth and, as a result, work to further His kingdom. Passive "Churchians" need not apply.

Churchians adhere to "Churchianity," a passive version of Christianity. Like Christians, Churchians pray, read the Bible, attend church, and tithe; their actions, however, do not go beyond the surface. Churchians submit selfish prayers that only solicit personal blessings; they do not seek opportunities to be a blessing to others. Churchians read the Bible selectively, claiming such promises as "never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5), while overlooking commands to "deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Churchians do not regularly attend church out of a desire to learn more about God's Word and His will, but rather they attend only because it is expected. Churchian tithes are not the first fruits of thankfulness; they are the leftovers of payday, grudgingly placed in the offering plate only to uphold appearances.

Take a look at the last three years of your life. Do you recognize symptoms of Churchianity that may have crept into your own Christian walk? You are not alone. Growing leaves is easier than producing fruit, but God prefers a sparse, fruitful tree to a leafy, fruitless one. Cutting down a fruitless tree displays God's justice; allowing it one last chance to produce fruit displays His mercy.

> Like Christians, Churchians pray, read the Bible, attend church, and tithe; their actions, however, do not go beyond the surface.

A new year has just begun. If your life has been fruitless until this point, resolve to produce fruit in 2005. If your life *has* been fruitful, resolve to produce *more*. The Christian life is not about becoming comfortable in passive Churchianity; instead, it is about actively seeking God's will and growing in a relationship with Him. Fertilizing your life with regular devotions, prayer journals, Bible studies, or volunteer efforts will increase your fruitfulness. Embrace God's gift of mercy in 2005, because it may be a limited time offer.

THE CROWN

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Jennifer Weening

SENIOR COPY EDITOR
Jason Duermeyer

LAYOUT EDITOR
Jacqueline Donkersloot

JUNIOR COPY EDITOR
Brianna Hammer

MANAGING EDITOR
Craig Vanderveen

ART DIRECTOR
Andrea Hensen

DIGITAL EDITOR
Steve Veldkamp

FACULTY ADVISOR
Dr. Deborah Bowen

CONTRIBUTORS:

Jake Belder, Amy Binder, Caroline Bulk, Jacqueline Donkersloot, Amyann Faul, Joseph Groenveld, Brianna Hammer, Dan Postma, Bonnie Sutherland, Marcel VanderWier, Brian VanDooren, Rachel van Geest, Steve Veldkamp, Aaron Verhoef, Andrew Vis, Tracy Voorberg

ADVERTISING: Craig Vanderveen, Crown Office, 905.648.2139 x4291, c/o Redeemer University College, 777 Garner Rd E, Ancaster, ON, L9K 1J4. Subscription enquiries may be addressed to the managing editor at the above address.

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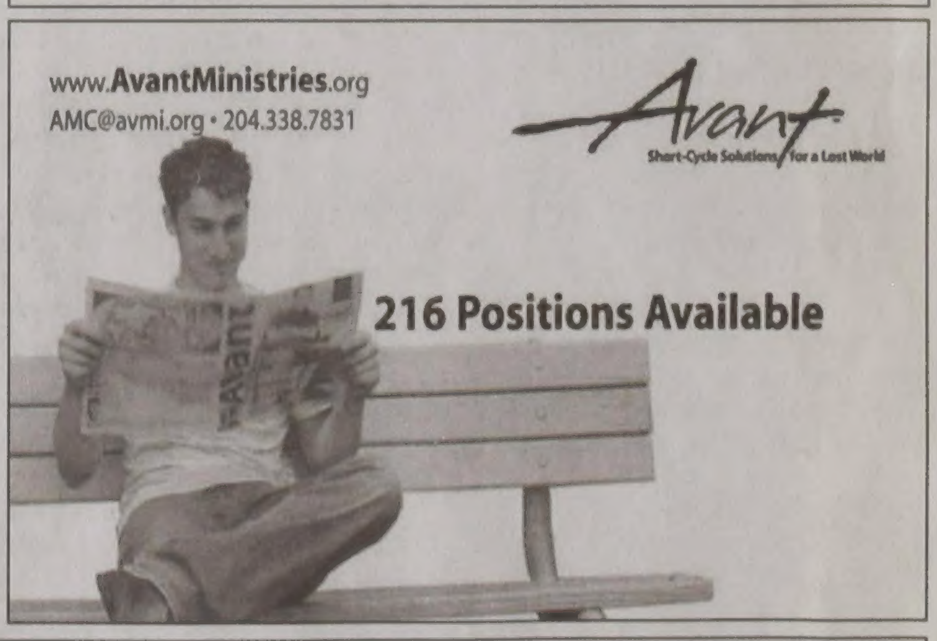

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Letters to the Editor

Racoon Dinner

RE: "News Musings," Dec. 8.

In response to the colourful commentary "News Musings" by Natalie Armstrong and Louizandre Dauphin, I would like to clarify some of the facts in their coverage of the raccoon dinner that took place some weeks ago on campus. I quote:

"Which brings us to our next topic: Anyone up for some raccoon? Our resident hillbilly Dan Brinkman has kindly offered to enlighten the adventurous to this great northern delicacy. Mmm…think of how wonderful some old fashioned 'coon would taste after it was trapped while feeding out of your nearest dumpster and then marinated in a 'secret' family recipe. Bon appetit."

Some correction is necessary here:

1. *Northern delicacy*: Raccoon is more properly noted as a Southern USA treat. In fact, Georgia and Alabama actually have intensive stocking and reintroduction programs in place to alleviate the stresses of over-hunting caused by their popularity as table fare!

2. *Trapped while feeding out of your nearest dumpster*: Lest some of the partakers in the Raccoon dinner get worried about what they ate, it is necessary to reiterate that it was harvested far from roads, creeks, and houses in a large woodlot containing nothing but the best of foods for 'coons to dine upon: hickory nuts, raspberries, and corn.

3. *Marinated in a "secret" family recipe*: I alone take credit for this dish, as I am the only member of the family that is of the Hillbilly persuasion. My family eats the standard Dutch meat and potatoes. And yes, we do have running water, electricity, television, telephone, and the internet.

I wish to thank the authors for their coverage of the wild foods event. There have been other wild game dinners taking place in the Redeemer community and should good fortune permit it, there will be more. Stay tuned for another episode of Hillbillies' Corner in an upcoming issue of *The Crown*, where we will discuss "The Other Other White Meat."

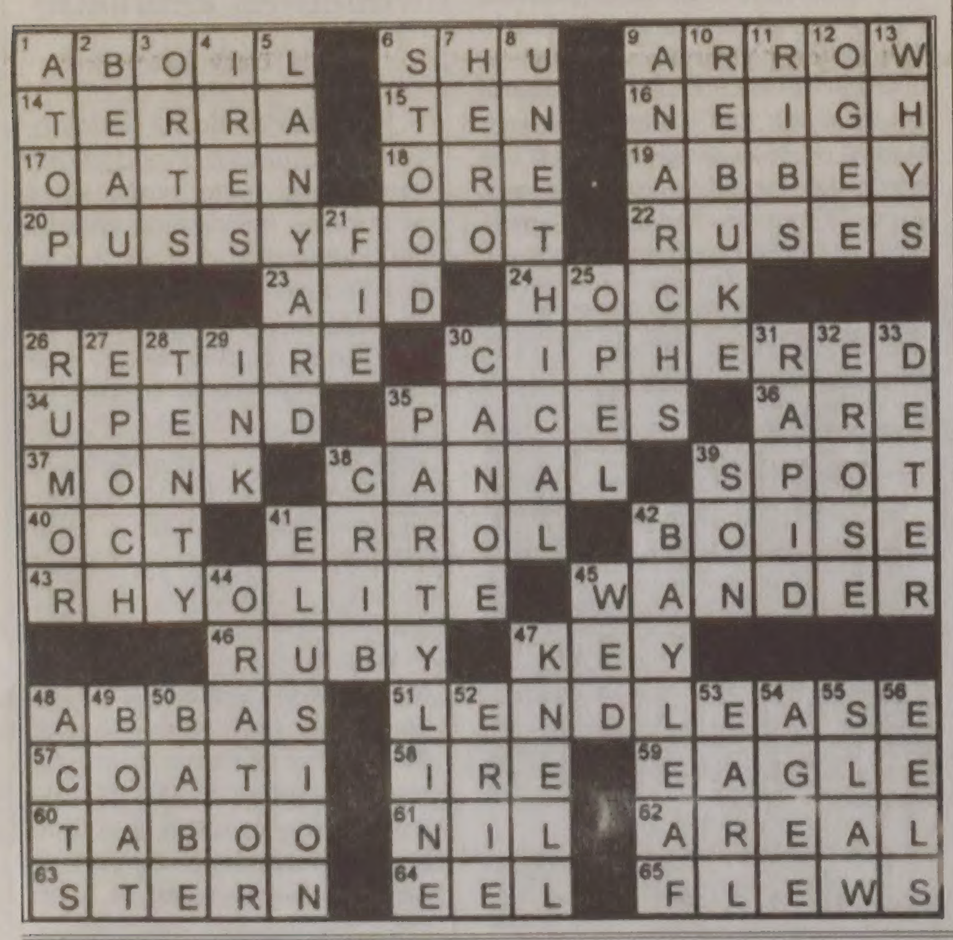
Dan Brinkman

Hockey Rivalry

RE: "Knights Cook Royals for Thanksgiving Dinner," Dec. 8

This letter is not about Marcel VanderWier's article, but about the Redeemer-Calvin annual hockey game in general. I went to the game on Saturday, November 27, and left feeling ecstatic that the Royals had managed to lose by only four goals, mostly thanks to the outstanding play of their goalie. Does this seem silly to anyone else? I enjoy a friendly rivalry, but I'm pretty sure that no one thinks the Royals are rivals to the Knights. And why should they be? Calvin's team has a much larger pool of athletes from which to select a team, including a large number of talented Canadians, and they practice several times a week, much more often than any Redeemer sports team. There is no reason that Redeemer *should* win; it would be ridiculous to expect it. Maybe when this tradition began "the Canadian small school" versus "the American big school" match-up made sense, but it simply doesn't anymore. What does continuing this tradition accomplish except for making our hockey players look silly? Maybe it's time we simply let this tradition die.

Jacqueline Donkersloot



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ICS: Blurring Boundaries?

RE: "Western Church, ICS Struggle to be Faithfully Relevant," Dec. 8.

Albert Postma has stumbled upon important issues about creational order in his most recent article, but on many points I would argue that he is begging for a number of questions to be asked.

First is the question of the origin of these structures. Are structures a part of our creation or something in the mind of God? If they are part of our creation, then it may be possible, in a thought experiment, to suspend these structures, just as one can operate outside the concept of gravity. But if they are from the very mind of God, I wonder how a finite mind can comprehend this infinite structure. And if these are structures imposed by God, how is man able to elude or ignore them?

Second, Postma implies that he understands the creational order and its distortions, yet he makes no attempt to delineate what is a created structure and what is an historical structure. Since structure seems to be such a primary concern for Postma, I think more detail as to its workings and what it entails is essential. Such detail is the mandate of good scholarship. If I went to a conference titled *Blurring Boundaries and Crossing Thresholds*, I would assume that I was in a post-structuralist setting. But for Postma, it seems that structuralism is not so much to be defended as merely asserted as superior.

Third, structures appear, in many ways, to be a backward glance at life. One does not comprehend creational structures and then move into praxis—the translation of idea into action. Such structures, if they exist, are discerned through reflection—a viewing of experience in a reversal of temporality. That is to say, such reflection steps outside the bounds of praxis. Structures conceived in this way are not the guide. In fact, I cannot operate in the present with wisdom and knowledge that I have yet to develop. I must operate within the human incompleteness of my current knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. The creational structures that manifest themselves in my life cannot be known in advance.

In noting this I would "recollect" what Anti-Climacus noted: "Admittedly, thinkers say that actuality is annihilated possibility, but that is not entirely true; it is the consummated, the active possibility." As people, we are bound by human finiteness in both the temporal and mental sense. In talking about the discerning of structures, it is important that we at least acknowledge the difference between "a priori" and "a posteriori" categories and accept the authority lost under the latter.

Beyond any discussion of structure, the fundamental Christian concern for love seems to have been minimized in Postma's article. Love does not appear as the fundamental concern of Postma's article because he has subordinated love to knowledge. Only near the end of his article does Postma speak specifically: "I hate murder, rape, theft, abuse, marital unfaithfulness, homosexuality, and poor scholarship." The trouble with Albert's list, other than the strained relationship between his hate objects, is that he makes no attempt to avoid his final item, and his faith statement is based on hate. How much more Christian would it be to affirm, "I love life, purity, justice, faithfulness, and scholarship." I can imagine Postma's song: "They'll know we are Christians if we know what love is." Sing along everyone.

While reading Postma's article, I had an ever-dwindling belief that he has any experience with these issues. He has, as yet, not been murdered, not been married, and, if I were to guess, not been a homosexual. But perhaps the reader may show some sympathy since one could easily suppose that he has been the victim of theft and the perpetrator of poor scholarship.

But surely love **is** the concern of Christians. The very limitations of love set forth in the article present, to use a Postma-ism, a disturbing trend: "It is only by recognizing the creational order and its distortions that true love and compassion can emerge." This statement is a shocking *reductio ad absurdum*, as is Postma's conclusion that "it is impossible to truly love a victim of rape unless you first recognize the powerful sinful distortion of sexuality that rape is." I would suggest that compassion does not come from knowledge. If this is his original contribution to Christian scholarship, then he should return to his clichés.

I have little, if any, understanding of the sort of creational structures and distortions to which Postma refers, yet there is no such knowledge needed for me to be concerned for a rape victim. Postma's sketch of the situation is coldly Gnostic. I think Postma has given up the best of humanity for the worst of rationalism in his article. Love throughout his article is dependant on comprehension. In his definition, Postma has excluded young children from the ability to love. Childlike love can no longer be our example. Christ stands corrected by Postma. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians never mentions love as a form of knowledge, but Pauline love is corrected by Postma. Paul's love in his epistles fails to be epistemological. People who are mentally handicapped cannot make the grade of Postma's love, nor can the less academic or those with Alzheimer's symptoms. If this is love, misunderstood by Christ and Paul, I pray that I never love but instead have my heart filled with the unexplainable Other passion drawn from beyond human understanding.

In fact, I struggle to find in his article the Biblical rooting that he calls for. The only Scripture reference was given by the "wayward" ICS professor. If the Bible is the authoritative source, why is it never referenced by Postma? Al Wolters is mentioned, but he is not yet canonized. Christ's own example of love is never mentioned by Postma. And I would expect him to at least observe the radical dynamics of Christ's relationship with women upon his speaking about the phantom feminist agenda.

Regarding the "issue" of women, I was supposed to be equally shocked at Christians blatantly allowing women's concerns to be considered. Surely anyone who listens to a woman must be pushing a feminist agenda! Perhaps I am looking too much at the Bible and missing Postma's "Biblical rooting." If a Biblical source is what you aim for, show your points Scripturally and drop the Neo-Kantian categorical imperative.

It seems to me that the basis of this article is social rather than Biblical. There is a Reformed veneer, and a Reformed authority is invoked, but no attempt is made to delve into any issue. While castigating "relevance, relevance, relevance," he fails to mention why being relevant as a church is wrong. I was supposed to be scandalized by the mere idea that a church is attempting to be relevant. "Church…relevance…you know what I mean." Thanks, Al.

"It is important to recognize that true Christian scholarship is rooted in the gospel, revealed in Scripture, which acts as the starting point and permeates the entire process of scholastic work." I approached his article with the assumption that somebody who hates poor scholarship would invest in research in order to avoid it. So I assumed that Postma would be careful with his words and concepts. But he decides to throw in the archaic Thomistic reference of scholastic work. For those unfamiliar, "the 'Scholastics' refers to the group of thirteenth and fourteenth-century theologians…[notably Aquinas]…that set down the dogma of the Catholic Church" (http://cepa.newschool.edu/het/schools/ancients.htm). Or did he mean "scholarly" work?

In fact, Postma's position would exclude many from faith. All those who lived before the Bible was written, like Abraham, could not have had a Biblically rooted faith, nor could Noah who walked with God. Mentally challenged people who cannot comprehend the structures are likewise excluded.

Please note that I am not writing as a scholar or an authority. I am writing to affirm faith and love beyond reason and knowledge and to give hope to the human hearts left on the margins.

Jonathan VanArragon

VOICES you speak out

"What's Your New Year's Resolution?"

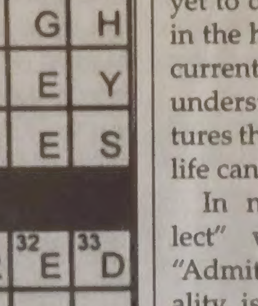
COMPILED BY AMYANN FAUL

BRIAN KEMPER 3RD YEAR

"To make one new friend."

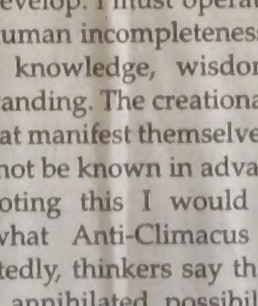
HEATHER KANZOOK 1ST YEAR

"You shouldn't have to wait until New Year's to have a resolution."



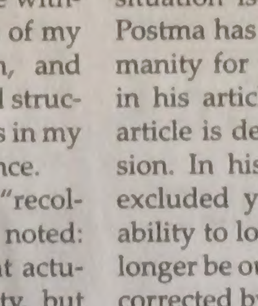
HEIDI ELLENS 4TH YEAR

"I gave up meat for a year. I don't like it, and this way I'm healthier."



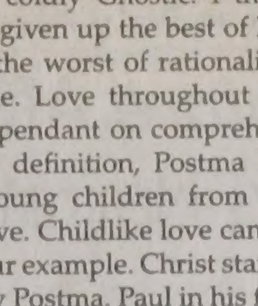
JOEL MARTIN 2ND YEAR

"I always want to make changes in my life. I am really trying to make an uncompromisable time with God every day! And to eat sushi at least once a month."



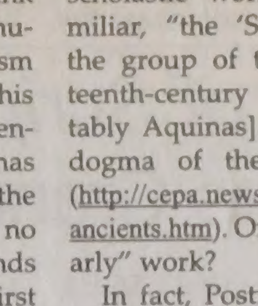
MICHELLE VANHARTEN 2ND YEAR

"I didn't really make one. I didn't actually give it a thought until now. But if I did, I would like to make some more time for devotions and not study late at night."



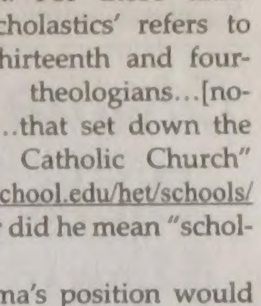
SCOTT FAIRLEY 2ND YEAR

"To be more honest with myself and others... And the whole lose weight, feel better thing that everyone gives up by February."



SHARON KLASSEN PROFESSOR

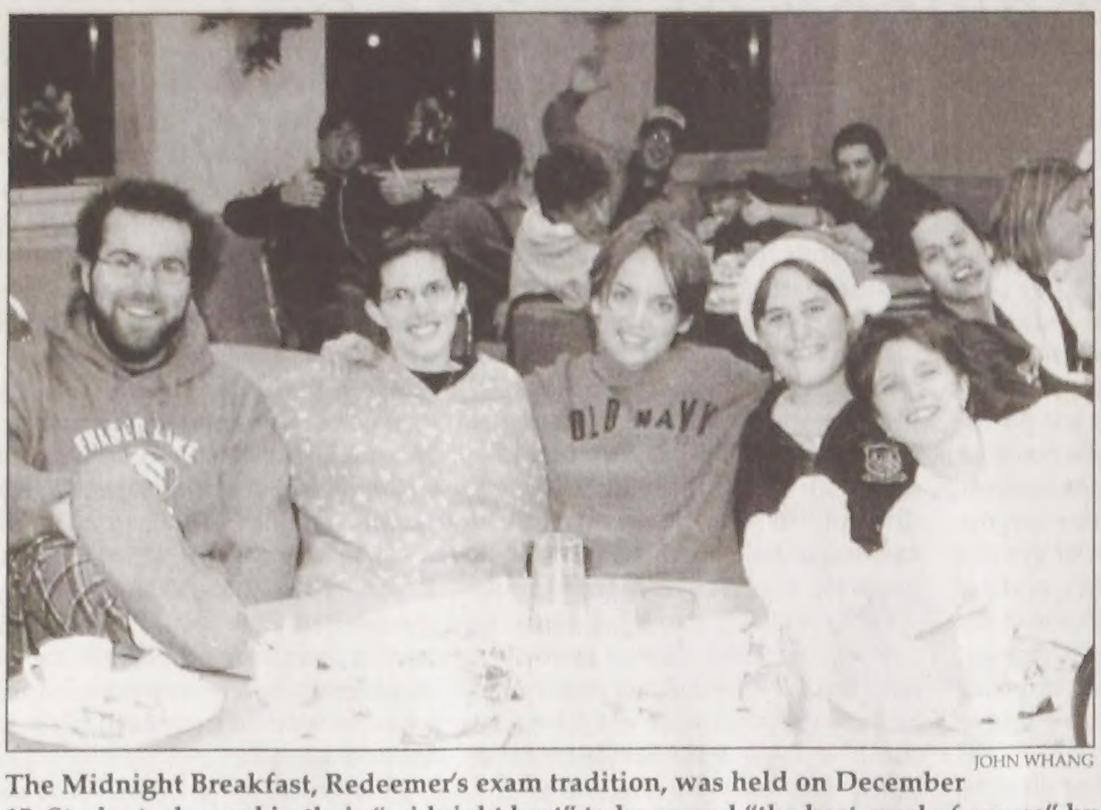
"I haven't actually made one in years. The last time I did was maybe six or eight years ago. It was that I would buy nothing but fairly traded coffee for one year. It's the only resolution I have ever kept. I just figure the other ones like lose weight and stop smoking never stick, so I don't bother anymore. It's got to be something you can actually accomplish."



ASHLEY HAYMAN 3RD YEAR

"To get my readings done on time. To write letters."

CAMPUS & AREA NEWS



JOHN WHANG

The Midnight Breakfast, Redeemer's exam tradition, was held on December 15. Students dressed in their "midnight best" to be served "the best meal of exams" by members of the faculty and staff. Above, students Sam Martin, Emily Clark, Amanda Baker, Samantha Merrifield, and Andrea Lennox enjoy a nice study break. Right, Matt Pamplin and Cam Stretch serve up some fun!

JOHN WHANG

The Crown Adds New Online Forums

Here's a site you really should bookmark

BY BRIANNA HAMMER

The Crown Online is Redeemer's student voice on the Web; it's also home to a forum for discussion. If you are looking for a place to discuss the articles and opinions that you see in print every other week, then this is the website to save in your browser's "favourites" folder.

The Crown's "Centre for Purposeful Discussion" hosts three forums. The "Current Events" folder provides a place where users can post messages regarding life outside of the Redeemer campus and around the world. The "Responses to Articles" forum is the place to go to share your thoughts about what is published in *The Crown*. If an article has either inspired or incensed you, or if you feel any other emotion in between, be sure to sign in and post a response here. The "Suggestions" forum serves as a channel through which you may convey constructive criticism regarding ways the publication or the website may be improved. Use this forum to supply feedback!

> If an article has either inspired or incensed you, or if you feel any other emotion in between, post a response

Recently created forums offer a new place to discuss campus life: "Coram Deo" is the perfect spot either to get the word out regarding your upcoming event or to discuss student activities, and "Academia" provides an outlet for students and professors alike to discuss classes and deep thoughts or simply to interact with one another.

Each forum allows for the creation of new topics, under which users may post responses and comments to previous messages. The "phpBB" open-source bulletin-board software that was utilized to create this online *Crown* community allows users to create public profiles, privately message one another, and keep tabs on the number of posts that have been written.

Becoming a member is easy: click on "Register," fill out the form to complete your user profile, and remember your user name and password for future log-ins. Once you do register, taking part in the community is as simple as finding the appropriate forum and posting your thoughts.

The Crown's message-board community exists as an outlet for readers to share, debate, and engage in ongoing discussion with one another. It holds the potential to become a vibrant community and a centre for dialogue, but *The Crown* needs its readers to participate!

Surf over to www.thecrown.ca as soon as you put down this print copy, and follow the "Discussion Centre" link that is listed within the sidebar. Post a comment about any article that elicits a personal response, or take part in an ongoing discussion. Set up a link to *The Crown* message boards on your blog, and keep the site book-marked in your browser, since *The Crown Online* is a great place to connect with others.

Drama of Scripture Affirms Bible as Grand Narrative

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

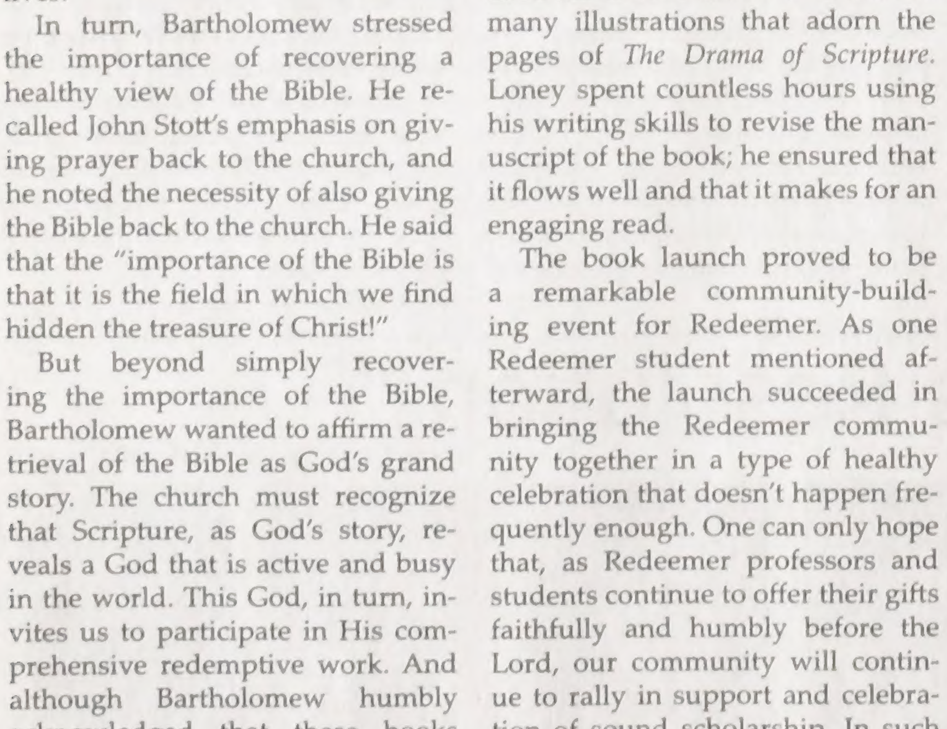
ally not well-received in the academy, and Wolters thanked the two men for striving to allow the light of Scripture to be shed on all our lives.

In turn, Bartholomew stressed the importance of recovering a healthy view of the Bible. He recalled John Stott's emphasis on giving prayer back to the church, and he noted the necessity of also giving the Bible back to the church. He said that the "importance of the Bible is that it is the field in which we find hidden the treasure of Christ!"

But beyond simply recovering the importance of the Bible, Bartholomew wanted to affirm a retrieval of the Bible as God's grand story. The church must recognize that Scripture, as God's story, reveals a God that is active and busy in the world. This God, in turn, invites us to participate in His comprehensive redemptive work. And although Bartholomew humbly acknowledged that these books will not give the Bible back to the church, he recognized that they are a small step in the right direction.

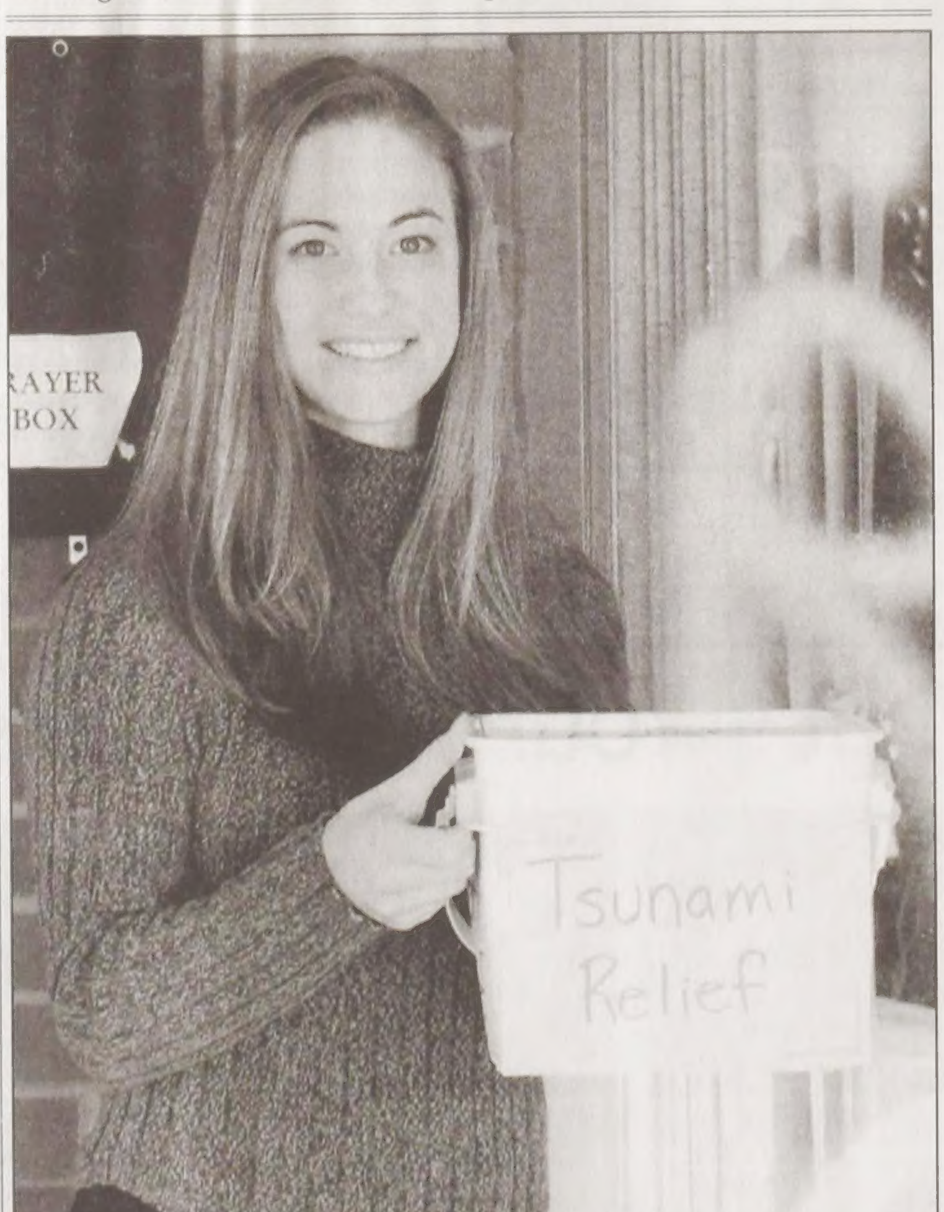
Goheen took the last opportunity to speak at the book launch. He gratefully thanked two people who had greatly contributed to *The Drama of Scripture*: his son, Ben Goheen, and Loney. Ben Goheen used his artistic talent to create the many illustrations that adorn the pages of *The Drama of Scripture*. Loney spent countless hours using his writing skills to revise the manuscript of the book; he ensured that it flows well and that it makes for an engaging read.

The book launch proved to be a remarkable community-building event for Redeemer. As one Redeemer student mentioned afterward, the launch succeeded in bringing the Redeemer community together in a type of healthy celebration that doesn't happen frequently enough. One can only hope that, as Redeemer professors and students continue to offer their gifts faithfully and humbly before the Lord, our community will continue to rally in support and celebration of sound scholarship. In such rejoicing, Christians enter what might best be termed "hallelujah territory"!

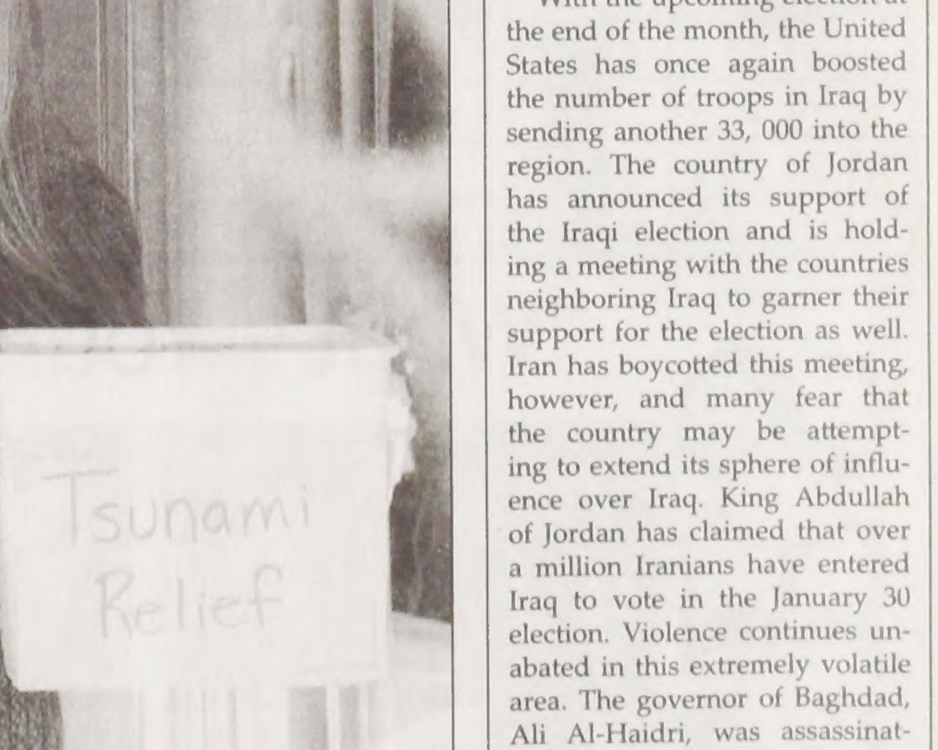


JEN WEENING

Students Alaina Frankruyter and Simon LeSieur pore over Goheen and Bartholomew's newly published Drama of Scripture.



AMYANN FAUL



JEN WEENING

The Redeemer community gets involved in the tsunami relief effort. Above, senator Laura Johnson holds up the collection bin for the loonie drive that took place on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Right, Williams employees donate their tips to World Vision's work in southeast Asia. A fundraising committee is also being formed.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

BY JAKE BELDER AND AARON VERHOEF

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Nearly two weeks after a devastating tsunami struck southeast Asia, more than 150, 000 people are confirmed dead. The United Nations is speculating that more than a third of these casualties are children. The organization has officially taken over the relief effort. Former United States Presidents George Bush Sr. and Bill Clinton are heading up relief efforts within the country. Currently, global pledges to help the region are upwards of $3 billion, but many warn that if aid is not administered as soon as possible, death toll numbers could double due to disease caused by unsanitary conditions.

UKRAINE

In a presidential battle that appears as though it will never end, the defeated candidate, Viktor Yanukovych, has appealed to the Ukrainian Supreme Court to challenge new President Viktor Yushchenko's victory. Yanukovych has publicly stated that he has no chance of success, but he will still appeal. The country remains unstable after the December 26 election. Yushchenko is expected to be inaugurated at the end of the week.

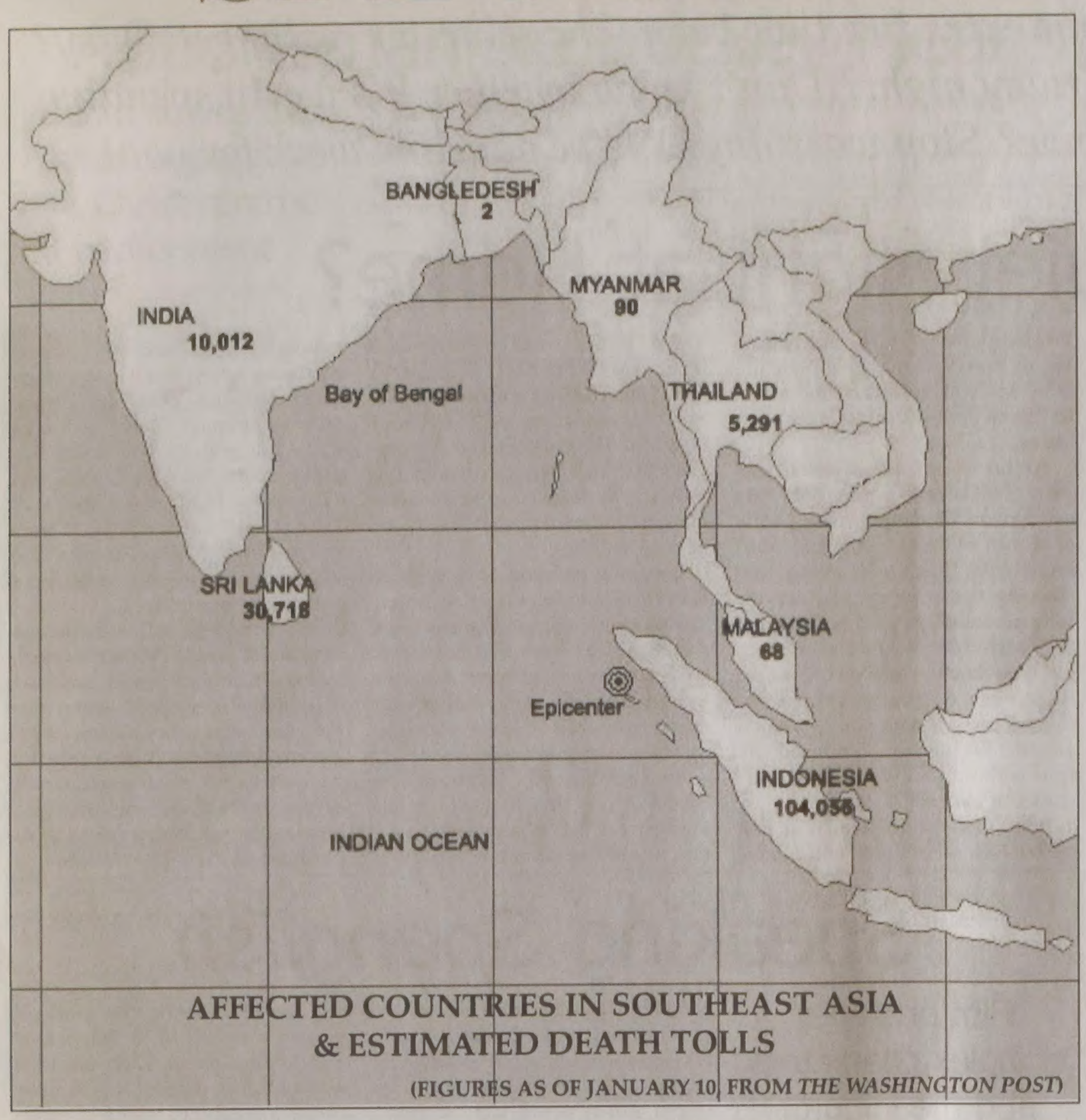
CHILE

Former Chilean Dictator General Augusto Pinochet has been placed under house arrest after being indicted on murder and kidnapping charges. A military police battalion has been put in place to stand guard around the house. During his 17-year reign, which ended in 1990, 3, 000 people died and 17, 000 were tortured on his orders. He has never been tried for human-rights violations before.

IRAQ

With the upcoming election at the end of the month, the United States has once again boosted the number of troops in Iraq by sending another 33, 000 into the region. The country of Jordan has announced its support of the Iraqi election and is holding a meeting with the countries neighboring Iraq to garner their support for the election as well. Iran has boycotted this meeting, however, and many fear that the country may be attempting to extend its sphere of influence over Iraq. King Abdullah of Jordan has claimed that over a million Iranians have entered Iraq to vote in the January 30 election. Violence continues unabated in this extremely volatile area. The governor of Baghdad, Ali Al-Haidri, was assassinated this past week. He had survived an assassination attempt in September.

SPECIAL FEATURE



AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA & ESTIMATED DEATH TOLLS

(FIGURES AS OF JANUARY 10, FROM *THE WASHINGTON POST*)

Asking "Why?" in the Midst of Disaster

Christians provide comfort in times of trouble

BY JAKE BELDER

The tsunami disaster that struck southeast Asia on December 26, 2004, was one of the most horrific natural disasters to ever occur. People's lives changed forever; homes, businesses, and families were completely lost. The death tolls tell us that over 150, 000 are dead, and over one-third of the dead are children.

For many people, this kind of disaster has them asking the question of how God could let such an event happen. Why would a God of love cause so much destruction and let so many people die? It's a question asked not only by people directly affected by the tsunami, but also by those in other parts of the world who witnessed such a thing happen. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury stated that the disaster has caused him to have doubts about God.

We live in a world in which people want answers to everything. The question of "how" is easily answered. It all starts with an undersea earthquake that displaces water and produces massive waves that increase in height as they move closer to the shore. They come on shore not as waves that break, but as walls of water called bores.

But this scientific explanation is not enough to make someone currently living in what remains of southeast Asia to sit back and say, "Okay, thanks. Now I'll go start my life over again." Asking how such an event like this happens is completely overshadowed by the seemingly unanswerable question: Why?

Right now there are people all over the world asking the same question. Newspaper articles and columns are trying to provide answers; leaders of all of the major religions are trying to offer their take on it. Will we ever be able to answer it?

The question comes to a head on the issue of theodicy. Theodicy is the area of theology that tries to reconcile how an almighty, loving, and just God, whose hand is at work in all of history, can continually allow such seemingly needless and cataclysmic disasters to happen. One of the most common answers to the question is that the disaster is part of God's plan and that it's punishment for human sin. But an answer like this seems a little sketchy—after all, does not everyone in the world sin? Why then was only southeast Asia punished?

Other explanations suggest that the disaster is a reminder from God of His power and that He created the world and can destroy it too. Or perhaps people will answer with the more evasive suggestions that this is all a mystery and that we simply can't understand God's plan. And then there is the ever-popular answer that this is yet again a sign of the end times, evidence of the turmoil and destruction foretold in the book of Revelation.

I certainly am not God, and therefore I cannot offer you the ultimate answer to the question of "why." But what I will do is offer the answer that those who hold to the Reformed tradition of Christianity would give.

Disasters such as the tsunami are undoubtedly evil. There is nothing good about 150, 000 people having lost their lives, nor is there anything good about millions more having lost everything *but* their lives. The existence of evil is purely our own fault. God did not cause evil to exist. It is only due to the fall of our first parents, Adam and Eve, that sin is present in the world. They, and subsequently we, have rebelled against God. Our nature is such that we are prone to hate God. Evil cannot be blamed on God; it must be blamed on us. According to Dr. Theodore Plantinga's book *Learning to Live with Evil*, evil "is not the result of some deficiency in our basic make-up or nature but the consequence of our perverse and corrupt will."

It is this sin in which we are submersed that has caused disruption in the creation order. God created everything perfect. He created a world without tsunamis, hurricanes, and other destructive forces of nature. He created a world in which His created beings, we included, could live peacefully. But we sinned, we rebelled, and we are the insurgents who have disrupted that creation order so that these destructive forces of nature now exist. Plantinga writes, "Sin brings about certain consequences: it shapes our situation...we do evil—and we suffer evil."

What is left for us, and for the millions in southeast Asia affected by the tsunami, is to do exactly what Plantinga suggests in the title of his book: we need to learn to live with evil. Sin is alien to the creation, but as long as this creation continues to exist, so will sin and the suffering that goes along with it. As believers, we have the grace of God to rest upon. We know that the suffering we experience is not a payment for our sin; Christ has made that payment for us already. At this point, all we can do is wait—wait for the glorious return of Christ to restore His creation and make all things right again.

Admittedly, and unfortunately, this offers no hope for the unbeliever. For Christians, death is a positive thing in light of the eternal life it brings. But this is quite the opposite for the unbeliever. For them, the explanation I've provided for why a disaster of such mass proportions can happen is nonsense. It makes no sense to them and provides no comfort. But their confusion is a window of opportunity through which we can shine the light of Christ. We have an explanation, and on top of that, we offer a message of hope!

In the face of an awful disaster, asking "why" is inevitable. There is no doubt that this one-word question is being asked by nearly everyone around the world. And while there are so many possible answers, there is only one that we can appeal to—an answer that provides hope in the face of horror, and life in the midst of death.

And Now, Back to our Regularly Scheduled Programming

How can we live business as usual when so many suffer in Asia?

DAN POSTMA

Puttering the halls of Redeemer, thousands of miles from ground zero of the Asian tsunami disaster, we can't deny it: we are detached, we are ignorant, and once the story slides out of sight to page two in our newspapers, the whole scene may slide right out of our minds.

Heck, even today, less than two weeks after the tragedy, while whole continents have shelved normalcy and are singularly focused on recovery, it's business as usual in North American malls, homes, and schools.

Is this natural? Perhaps so. After all, the tidal wave did not strike our coast, so we shouldn't expect our landscape, or the surface of our society, to change noticeably.

But what is obscene and unacceptable is the disparity in psychological landscapes. In our comfortable, work-a-day context, the media remind us of the ongoing disaster relief effort about five or perhaps ten times per day at the most, which will naturally decrease over time. Meanwhile, billions in that quarter of the world will think of little else for months, or years.

At issue is perspective; ours is lousy. We should be shamed by what we read next.

Do we see what they see?

"Yesterday, after the last foreigners were whisked away in buses, the villagers of the devastated coastline were left alone in the temple to contemplate their shattered lives. Pirayanth Botega, a waiter at the Club Lanka Hotel, lost his home, his livelihood, his wife, and his child when the tsunami tore through the resort as he was serving breakfast.

"'Everyone I had is gone,' he said, his eyes filling with tears. 'I don't know what will happen now. Maybe the tourists will never come back. We have no future. Everything is gone. I pray every time for Jesus, but no help comes.'" *~From "'I Pray, But No Help Comes,'" by Robin Gedye,* Ottawa Citizen, *December 30.*

***

"They're known as 'the team that sleeps with the dead'—a group of ultra-Orthodox Jewish forensic workers who have matched body parts to identities after countless scenes of carnage in Israel. Now in Thailand, they have only one way to describe the aftermath of the tsunami: a disaster, literally, of biblical proportions.

"'Only during the great flood in Genesis have there been sights like this, so many corpses, so many,' said Yehuda Meshi-Zahav, a team leader. 'We are experiencing ... something from the days of Genesis.'

"'Everything we know in Israel, all the terrorist bombings don't begin to compare to what is happening here.'" *~From "Tsunami Forensics Team Evokes Bible Images" by Miranda Leitsinger,* Yahoo! News, *January 6.*

Modeling a rare hope

How, I beg to know, can we allow ourselves to continue normal lives while this carnage, this human wasteland, unfolds across the Pacific? How can we lunge for Boxing Day deals while so many are dying at the very same time? Technology seems to be making the globe smaller, yet these two contexts might as well be in separate dimensions. How do we patch this monstrous disconnection?

Obviously it is naïve to expect millions of warm-hearted Christians to fly to ground zero and personally tend to victims and their families. Most aid agencies, in fact, refuse to take on untrained personnel, even in times of crisis, as the added burden of volunteers' food, shelter, health, and security can easily overwhelm resources that are already taxed. Helpers lacking prior disaster relief experience or technical skills are generally unwelcome in disaster zones. So how else can we care?

Money is certainly a start. I'm not questioning our financial generosity. Canada and the United States have led the way in providing financial and material aid to the disaster zone. But I am convinced that donations cannot be the climax; we cannot empty our wallets and continue on our way. "If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3).

The tsunami victims were created in God's image exactly as we were. We, of all people in this post-Christian society, must publicly believe that, as they suffer in Asia, we suffer with them. This means that the surface of our lives must change. Our eyes need to come off our bank statements, computer screens, and dinner plates; we're not needy, and we don't need more wealth. One of Christ's most difficult mandates is to get over ourselves and our plenty, and focus on the suffering and their needs.

> One of Christ's most difficult mandates is to get over ourselves and our plenty, and focus on the suffering and their needs.

The wealthy world needs a new focus, and Christ's followers are anointed to illumine it and fight for it. Maybe that means a Missions minor should be a core requirement for every Christian university graduate. Certainly it means that we should set an example for the self-centred public around us. Why do we take the courses we do? Why do we buy the things we do and spend our time the way we do? If our answers are the same as the rest of this city, are we setting ourselves apart for God's glory?

Break the mold. Donate money if you can, but do it as part of Christ's mandate; we have a higher calling than feel-good shivers. Most of all, break the surface of a programmed culture shockingly unruffled by this tragedy. Model the hope we have in Christ, and believe that God is present and working, even amid carnage and disaster.

"We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:2-4).

Lack of Infrastructure Makes Aid Difficult

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vide drinking water for tsunami victims. There has been some controversy about whether the whole team should be sent since it is very costly, but the skills of its members have never been more needed. These are just a few of the incredible number of relief agencies working both on the ground and here in Canada, yet the need is still acute. It gives one an idea as to the real extent of this disaster.

> In one area, it is estimated that half the provincial government was killed.

The need for the quick distribution of all this aid, however, faces major obstacles. One of the key problems is the remoteness of some of the areas that have been hit. Also, any infrastructure these areas had before the disaster is gone, making it difficult both to communicate with natives over there and to set up relief operations. In one area, it is estimated that half the provincial government was killed. Another problem that relief workers face is a lack of roads and bridges, making it difficult to reach far-flung areas.

The rebuilding process will take years. Entire communities have been swept away, families have been torn apart, and infrastructure is gone—all this in what was already one of the poorest areas of the world. The full impact of this catastrophe will likely not be known for some time, but it will be bigger than any of us thought. The media often has a short attention span when it comes to tragedies, as the rest of the world continues its daily life, but the international community must continue to support these people as they rebuild their lives.

Even after the death toll is finalized, people regain access to clean water, and relatives learn about the fate of their loved ones, this will not be over. We must remember and strive to help our brothers and sisters in southeast Asia, even when international attention turns elsewhere.

ARTS & CULTURE

Are you enjoying the luxury of some extra free time before the semester really gets busy? Need something to do on a lonely Friday night? Don't know whether it's worth spending the money to go see or rent a movie? Stop worrying! We've done the work for you!

Want a Quiet Night at Home?

Try watching dust-collecting movies like *The Big Kahuna*

BY BRIAN VANDOOREN

Looking for something to do before the crunch hits? Want a cheap, easy way to fill those idle, homework-free nights? Why not pop into your local video store and check out some titles you've never heard about—like *The Big Kahuna*, starring Kevin Spacey?

This 1999 film is an adaptation of Roger Rueff's *Hospitality Suite*. Set entirely in a single hotel room, it is the story of three industrial lubricant salesmen trying to land that one big client on the last night of a convention.

Spacey plays Larry Mann, a middle-aged cynic who dominates the movie with his dry wit and bluntness. In total contrast, Peter Facinelli plays Bob Walker, a well-intentioned newcomer to the game. As a born-again Christian, Bob has trouble separating his life as a salesman from his religious views. Facinelli plays the naïve nice guy to perfection, embodying everything that Spacey's character is not.

Caught between the two is Phil Cooper, played by Danny DeVito. After spending most of his life devoted to selling, Phil begins to question the value of his work and his life. As the movie progresses, Phil begins to contemplate the existence of God, the meaning of love, and even his own suicide, while at the same time trying to please both of his younger associates.

At his most philosophical moment, Phil says to young Bob, "I'm saying you've already done plenty of things to regret, you just don't know what they are. It's when you discover them, when you see the folly in something you've done, and you wish that you had it do over, but you know you can't, because it's too late. So you pick that thing up and carry it with you to remind you that life goes on. The world will spin without you; you really don't matter in the end."

Bob's Christianity, which at first makes him seem naïve and almost foolish in the world of hard-nosed business, is the perfect foil to Larry's cynicism. The film neither endorses nor condemns any of the character's morals or lifestyles, but it suggests that they all have considerable growing to do. It is up to the audience to judge the characters and find their value.

I should mention at this point that *The Big Kahuna* is rated R, and it does contain crude language and swearing. This review is not meant to debate the validity of swearing in movies or art, or any other such moral questions. I leave such discernment to the informed reader.

For anyone still interested in checking out this film, you must understand that it is lacking in action or movement of any kind. It is a thoughtful character study, driven by strong acting, but it is almost entirely dialogue. There are few big laughs, although Larry has often made me grin. At one point, Bob, eager to get into the action says, "Throw me in the water and see if I can swim." Larry replies, "I think you're missing the point here, Bob. We're about to throw you off a cliff and see if you can fly."

I find movies like this much more interesting than grand action blockbusters. Computers and hundreds of millions of dollars cannot take the place of quality acting and a creative script. Next time you find yourself in the video store, consider *The Big Kahuna*—or any other movie that puts acting ahead of explosions.

Speaking *Spanglish*

Film presents complex characters and meaningful story

BY JACQUELINE DONKERSLOOT

Meet Flor and her daughter Cristina. As an illegal Mexican immigrant, Flor acquires a job as a maid for the Clasky family, despite the fact that she speaks no English.

Flor is the central character in *Spanglish*, and Hollywood newcomer Paz Vega plays the part brilliantly. Even when speaking untranslated Spanish, she communicates her meaning very clearly, and it is obvious that her character is motivated by her love for her daughter.

Written and directed by James L. Brooks, *Spanglish* examines the stuff of everyday life—work, marriage, love, discipline—with a particular focus on the relationship between parents and their children. Flor only wants what is best for her daughter, but deciding what is best proves to be a constant battle. John Clasky, played by a calm and mature Adam Sandler, wants the same for his two children, but he also has to deal with his well-intentioned but utterly misguided wife Deborah (Tea Leoni), whose self-centered lack of confidence results in arrogance and an unwillingness to simply relax or learn from others. The Clasky family's two children—the weight-challenged Bernice and her younger brother, who is generally ignored throughout—fall in love with Flor as the two families struggle to co-exist despite cultural differences and language barriers.

This movie is simply about life: making the difficult decisions that need to be made, making mistakes and learning from their consequences, and realizing the importance of trust and support in a family. It is full of wonderful characters rich with humour and love.

Only Leoni's Deborah is somewhat one-dimensional and annoying, never allowing the audience to take a breath or to sympathize with her behaviour. There are a few weaknesses in the plot (e.g. how are illegal immigrants working legally, going to school, and getting scholarships?), but it is the characterization and dialogue that make this movie successful.

It is refreshing to see a movie with a strong, nurturing father character whose life is completely wrapped up in his children, in spending time with them, worrying about them, and arguing on their behalf. The relationship between a child and a parent is an important one, and this movie takes it very seriously. *Spanglish* is narrated by Cristina in the form of a university application essay about the most influential person in her life—her mother. We hear about Flor from the point of view of her daughter, and we see that making selfless decisions does have an impact on our children's futures.

Film Defies Generic Superhero Mold

The Incredibles shatters tired conventions, yet there's room for improvement

BY RACHEL VAN GEEST

What would you do if all your superhero powers were one day stripped away from you?

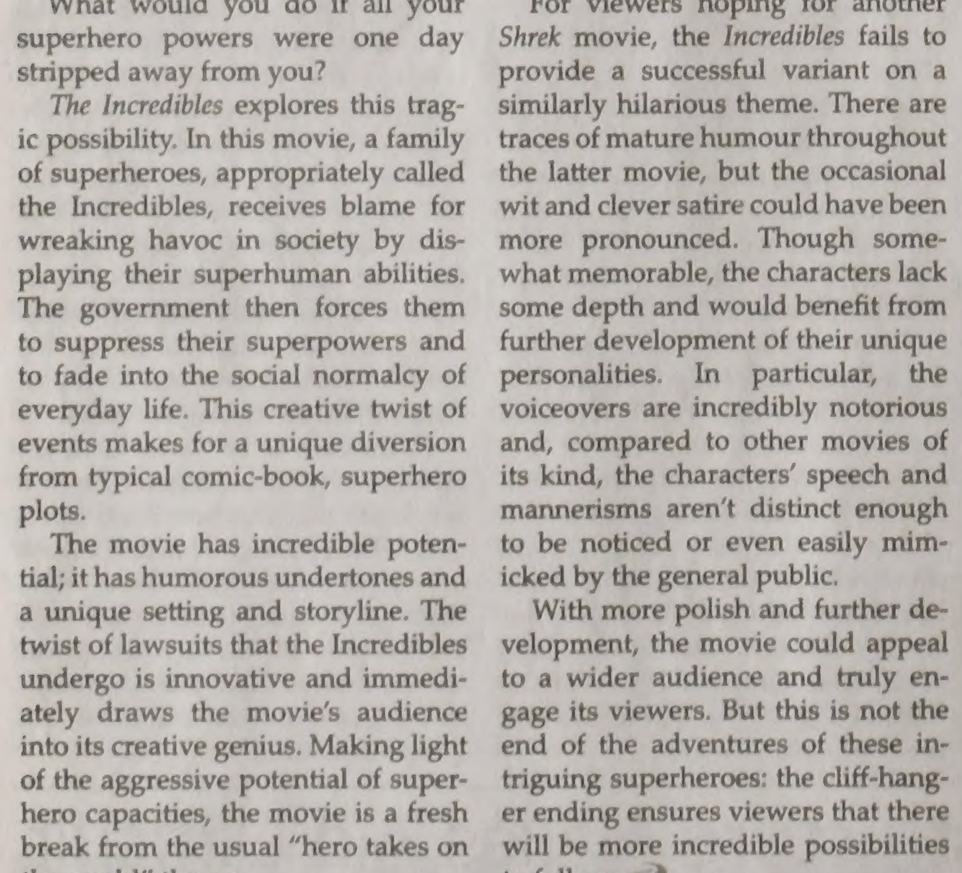
The Incredibles explores this tragic possibility. In this movie, a family of superheroes, appropriately called the Incredibles, receives blame for wreaking havoc in society by displaying their superhuman abilities. The government then forces them to suppress their superpowers and to fade into the social normalcy of everyday life. This creative twist of events makes for a unique diversion from typical comic-book, superhero plots.

The movie has incredible potential; it has humorous undertones and a unique setting and storyline. The twist of lawsuits that the Incredibles undergo is innovative and immediately draws the movie's audience into its creative genius. Making light of the aggressive potential of superhero capacities, the movie is a fresh break from the usual "hero takes on the world" theme.

However, after the immediate plug of interest brought forth in its beginning, the movie quickly turns into a whirl of fast-paced, do-or-die action scenes. From this point on, the central concern of the movie is the recovery of superpower strengths. Although it contains scenes of dramatic life struggles that provide a great amount of thrill and suspense, the movie loses much depth and character development in the process.

For viewers hoping for another *Shrek* movie, the *Incredibles* fails to provide a successful variant on a similarly hilarious theme. There are traces of mature humour throughout the latter movie, but the occasional wit and clever satire could have been more pronounced. Though somewhat memorable, the characters lack some depth and would benefit from further development of their unique personalities. In particular, the voiceovers are incredibly notorious and, compared to other movies of its kind, the characters' speech and mannerisms aren't distinct enough to be noticed or even easily mimicked by the general public.

With more polish and further development, the movie could appeal to a wider audience and truly engage its viewers. But this is not the end of the adventures of these intriguing superheroes: the cliff-hanger ending ensures viewers that there will be more incredible possibilities to follow.



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SPORTS

Sportsmanlike Hockey Means Success for Royals

Team strives to create cooperative and Christ-centred environment

BY JOSEPH GROENEVELD

If someone were to ask a member of the Royals hockey team about their season so far, he would say that they are very pleased. The players are playing as a team and are having loads of fun. Half of the hockey season has been played already, and after a slow start, the team is on fire as of late. They are presently in a four-way tie for second place, and there are several reasons for their recent success.

Forwards

Scoring goals against the top teams is one necessary ingredient for success. So far the forwards have generally struggled in this area, but improvement has been shown as the team scored eight goals against the second-place Pirates in an 8-1 win a few weeks ago.

A very positive feature of the forwards' play is their fore-checking. An excellent fore-checking system employed by Coach Ron Oppertshauser has frustrated opposing teams' defence and caused numerous turnovers, leading to several goals.

In addition, the forwards are back-checking hard and playing good man-to-man cover in the defensive zone. All of this is the result of hard work and commitment to the team's objectives. All the forwards have played excellently and have contributed to every game. Honourable mention goes to Chris Butt, Danny VanGeest, and Chris Kotan, who have been pleasant surprises so far this year.

Defensemen

Defense was a questionable aspect of the team at the beginning of the year but has since improved drastically. All of the defensemen are committed to a man-to-man system, which has reduced the number of scoring chances for the opposition. The defensemen are also focusing on keeping opposing forwards away from goalie Cory McArthur and the net so that he can focus on the shooter. Continued progress is also seen in the breakout system. Overall, team defence is the main reason for recent team success.

Goaltending

McArthur has proven very reliable again this season. He is gaining more confidence every game; he is coming out of his net more and cutting down the shooter's angle. The team is fifth in the league in "goals against," in large part because of McArthur and the team's commitment to defence. His helpful insights for the team's defensive system are very beneficial to the team.

Special Teams

The Royals' power-play is okay, but it needs improvement: they sometimes have trouble gaining control of the puck in the offensive zone. This is an area where practice is needed since they receive several power-plays per game. The team's penalty kill has been excellent so far this season. Teams are having a difficult time controlling the puck because of the pressure of the Royals' forwards, especially those who are forcing the opposition to make errant passes.

Coaching

Oppertshauser's return as coach this year has been a huge bonus to the team. On the one hand, he has excellent knowledge of both the game of hockey and the league. More importantly, he has helped foster a cooperative and unselfish team environment. Here are three positive aspects that Oppertshauser has instilled in the team:

1) Line changes are fairly quick and consistent so that all players receive equal playing time and their energy is utilized to the maximum.

2) The whole team has a "defence first" approach. It is vital for the whole team to be on the same page. With the Royals having many goal scorers, scoring goals is not a problem; keeping them out is of utmost importance because it is likely that the opposing team will score enough to win.

3) The discipline factor cannot be stressed enough, as this may be the most disciplined team Redeemer hockey has ever had. From day one, Oppertshauser has encouraged the players to play for Christ, and a big part of that is showing Christian sportsmanship and "turning the other cheek." Many Christians think they can excuse themselves for erratic and sinful behaviour in sports, but this is a completely false belief; Christians are to take every thought captive to Christ wherever they are and whatever they do. So far this season the Royals have the second-least penalty minutes in the league with an average time of 4.92 per game! They are not perfect, however, as they continually need to work on reducing the amount of swearing that occurs. Oppertshauser and the players should be commended and encouraged not for their wins, but for their discipline, as they try to play a style of hockey that is truly glorifying to God.

This has been a great season so far, with the weekend series against Calvin College being the highlight. Even though the scores showed huge victories for Calvin, both games were very clean and sportsmanlike. Both teams worked very hard, were challenged, and had lots of fun. The Royals benefited very much from these games, which brought them closer together as a team. The team hopes to continue to provide exciting, entertaining, and God-glorifying hockey in the future and thanks all of the fans for supporting them while bearing the cold temperatures of the arena. GO ROYALS GO!

Canada Reclaims International Hockey Supremacy

"Best team ever" dominates on North Dakotan Stage

BY MARCEL VANDER WIER

It has been eight long years since any writer has received the privilege of reporting a gold medal for the Canadian junior hockey team. But after the show Brent Sutter's team put on during the last two weeks, it is hard to believe that Canada's juniors will be less than golden ever again.

The Canadians, who had not won gold in this tournament since 1997, utterly dominated every game they played in the 2005 World Junior Hockey Championship held in North Dakota, finally winning that elusive gold medal after a 6-1 shellacking of the Russians on January 5. The team outscored their collective opponents 41-7, never trailed, and allowed only three even-strength goals in six games.

Even without Nathan Horton and Brent Burns, Canada had a surplus of offensive talent highlighted by Boston Bruins centre and Tournament MVP Patrice Bergeron and his sensational 17-year-old winger, Sidney Crosby. Depth of talent ran deep throughout this year's squad; Jeff Carter and winger Ryan Getzlaf combined for 22 points on the second scoring line, while last year's fourth overall NHL draft pick, Andrew Ladd, and captain Mike Richards were restricted to the third line. Even fourth-line checker Clarke MacArthur chipped in with four goals in six games. Yet, while Canada's relentless fore-check and puck-cycling often kept the puck in the offensive zone for minutes at a time, it was the defensive work of team Canada that was particularly mind-numbing.

Led by stalwart Dion Phaneuf, the Canadian defence corps made stopping pucks effortless for goaltender Jeff Glass. Phaneuf, named top defenseman in the tournament, and partner Shea Weber, spent the majority of the tournament facing the opponent's best trio of forwards; still, they allowed just one goal-against while they were on the ice. Shawn Belle was an extreme physical presence, punishing countless amounts of opponents with his colossal 6'1, 229 lb. frame.

This was easily one of the finest national junior teams ever assembled, thanks in large part to the lack of NHL hockey. Due to the four-month-old lockout, world-class talents like Bergeron, Carter, and Phaneuf were made available to the team, and they let their play speak for itself.

Canada has re-established global dominance in its national sport, and it is currently defending champs of every international hockey tournament possible. The tournament was an incredible display of hockey dominance that was almost sickening to watch. Ottawa Senators GM John Muckler may have said it the best: "Awesome team...the best ever."

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DIVERSIONS

Bounty Hunting May be Your Forté

Who says it's an unconventional career option?

BY BONNIE SUTHERLAND

Many Redeemer students are quickly realizing that, instead of coasting through university without giving the future any serious thought, they should figure out what opportunities lie out there in the great big world. There are quite a few careers to choose from: teacher, minister, news anchorperson, rock star; the list goes on and on, but one career that is generally overlooked is that of the bounty hunter.

At this point some of you may be thinking, "A bounty hunter? Isn't that illegal?" Actually, bounty hunting is very legal. As a bounty hunter, you get to use your high intelligence, people skills, physical strength, and amazing endurance both to benefit society and to impress persons of the opposite sex. A bounty hunter is employed by a bail-bondsman (or bondsperson) when a criminal has skipped the appointed court date. Because the police are too busy arresting other people, the bounty hunter is hired, for a reasonable fee, to track the criminal down and return him or her to the hands of the judicial system.

Bounty hunters are also allowed to use any means necessary to catch the crook. They can break into houses without a warrant and kick down doors if they want to. They also do stakeouts and eat lots of fast food. Bounty hunting allows you to do all the exciting stuff and leaves others to deal with the more mundane aspects of the judicial system. For example, you could choose a career as a police officer, but they don't always have lives of thrills and adventure. They have lots of paperwork and tedious things to do like directing traffic, catching speeders, monitoring fall fairs and parades, and doing drug busts at elementary schools. What could be more boring?

> A career in the mafia does not fit into our Reformed worldview. The bounty hunter is the mafia hit-man redeemed!

The closest career to bounty hunting is being a mafia hit-man (or hit-person). It seems to be just as exciting, but there are some major downsides too. One difference between bounty hunting and being a hit-man is that, as a bounty hunter, you cannot kill anyone. In the Wild West, bounty hunters frequently took their men 'dead or alive,' but nowadays practices are a little more humane and allowing the person to live is the trend.

This may be a wholesome alternative for those of you who have been considering the mafia after university. As a bounty hunter, you could work with the law yet take matters into your own hands if you need to. Also, your life would not be in danger all the time. The people you would work for would not be waiting behind you, poised to plunge a long glittery knife into your back. I think everyone would agree that a career in the mafia does not fit into our Reformed worldview. The bounty hunter is the mafia hit-man redeemed!

Generally, bounty hunters have only one opportunity to catch the felon, and it must be done well. The best, although not the most exciting, way to catch the intended person is to use the element of surprise. If the felon knows that you are coming, he or she won't wait around. The catching works best if the crook is sleeping, half asleep, slightly confused, or waist deep in soft mud. This way you can burst in (or out) and quickly tackle the person to the floor (or the bottom of the quagmire). If using this tactic doesn't work, the crook will flee and your best opportunity will have fled with him.

Both men and women can be bounty hunters. The stereotypical image of a bounty hunter is a big buff Ramboesque man who won't stop for anything to get what he wants. Since there are no longer any men who look like Rambo, the face of bounty hunting has changed. As long as you have a sharp mind and a deep understanding of people, this may be the career for you.

Here are five ways that Redeemer can help you on your way to a career in bounty hunting:

1) Long lines for soup and communal meal exercise your patience and train you for long stakeouts.

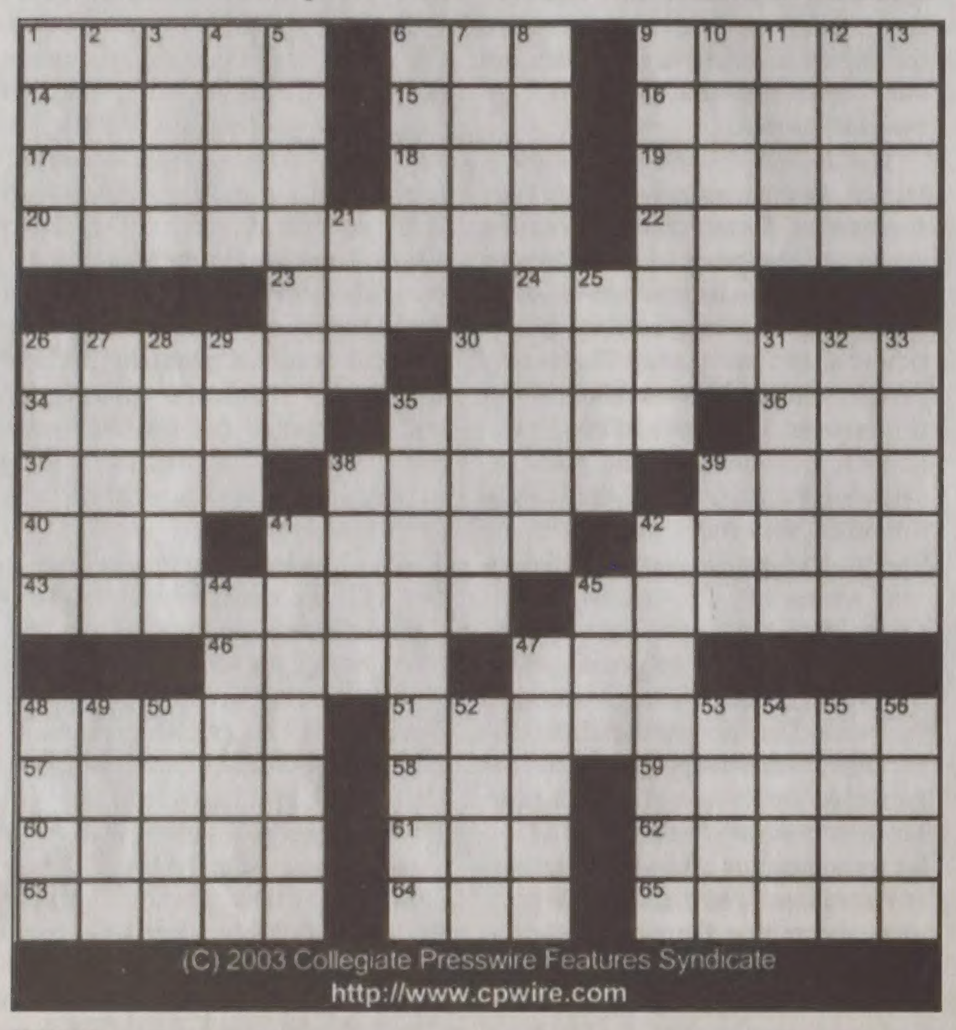
2) Walking *all the way* from the dorms to the school helps you to build endurance for long foot chases.

3) Stealthily sneaking into a friend's room while they are sleeping to stick green beans up his or her nose helps you understand the importance of the element of surprise.

4) If you get locked out of your dorm, don't call security; kick the door down.

5) Neo-Platonic dualism is bad.

So when you are perusing your career opportunities, don't count this option out. Bounty hunting is legal, respectable, and arguably one of the most exciting and challenging jobs out there.



UZZLE

ACROSS
1. Bring water to this
6. South Orange, NJ college
9. Cupid's projectile
14. Earth
15. Total commandments
16. Whinny
17. Made of oats
18. Pacific NW state
19. Monastery
20. Move cautiously
22. Subterfuges
23. Help
24. Pawn
26. Go to sleep
30. Calculated
34. Invalidate
35. Strides
36. 100 square meters
37. Inhabitant of #19 across
38. Ear or Panama, e.g.
39. "Out, damn ___!"
40. Fall mo.
41. Actor Flynn
42. Idaho city
43. Acidic volcanic rock
45. Roam
46. Red gem
47. Answer sheet
48. God's
51. Allied goods transfer
57. Raccoon-like animal
58. Wrath
59. Golf score
60. Social prohibition
61. Nothing
62. Involving a certain space
63. Serious
64. Electric fish
65. Hound lips

DOWN
1. Not under
2. Suitor
3. Scraps
4. Angers
5. Canon firing cord
6. Endured
7. Submarine sandwich
8. Immoral
9. Practice anarchy
10. Admonish
11. Baby back, e.g.
12. Arch type
13. Causes
21. Yuck!
25. General motors brand
26. Hearsay
27. Period
28. Twenty minus "w"
29. Writing liquid
30. Boat
31. Fast
32. Irregularly notched
33. Discourage
35. Political group's policy
38. Home
39. Male child
41. Evasion
42. Herb
44. Public speaker
45. Marry
47. Toll
48. Play sections
49. Tug or love follower
50. Talking pig
52. Pennsylvania city
53. Nobleman
54. *A Death in the Family* author
55. "Cole" follower
56. Two of #64 across

SOLUTION ON PAGE 3

The Sofa Bed Unfolds

And the transition to adulthood commences

BY AMY BINDER

One day in the middle of October I got a call from my mom that changed my life forever. On that fateful day, I became an adult.

I should have seen it coming as I'd been exhibiting signs of adulthood for years. I bought my own clothes, made my own food, and drove my siblings around. I did my own laundry, had my name on a lease, and paid bills. I even used words like "dichotomy" and "infrastructure." Somehow, in spite of all these signs, I'd managed to convince myself that I wasn't *really* an adult yet. After all, I still had a bedroom in my parents' house.

That, apparently, is the key to one's adult status. I know a 25-year-old lawyer who still isn't an adult because he has a bedroom in his parents' house. I, a humble undergrad, am more of an adult than he, because as of two weeks ago I no longer have that safety net.

Perhaps I should explain myself a little better. Let's take a look at that phone call from my mom. Please keep in mind that the conversation occurred at the crack of dawn (that is, sometime around noon), which is the reason for my lack of verbal ability.

Phone: *rings shrilly*

Amy: *grunts*

Phone: *is annoyingly persistent*

Amy: "Mmmnnnnnggrrrraaaaaaaaar."

Mom: "We sold the house!"

Amy's Left Brain: Hooray? This call definitely could have come later in the day.

Amy's Right Brain: The house was for sale?

Mom: "…Blah blah, square footage, blah blah, prime location, blah blah, sorry there's not a room for you, but wait until you see the office!"

Amy: "Whoa. Back up. What was that? Use small words."

Mom: "I said, the office is amazing."

Amy: "Mother. Are you telling me that you're kicking me out?!"

Mom: "Well, there's always the sofa bed…"

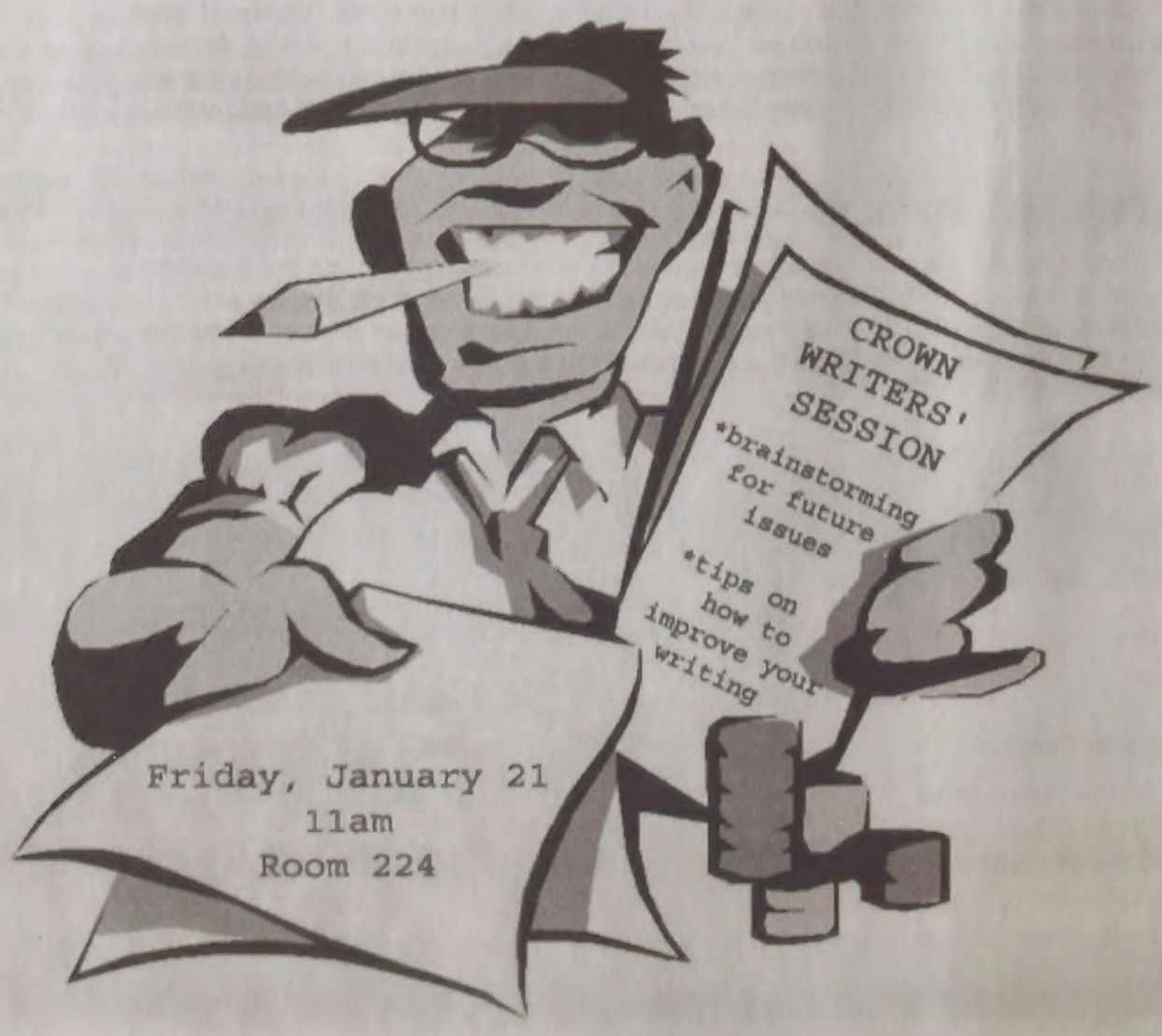
And just like that, I was an Adult. I now had Responsibilities. I now had to Fend For Myself. I now had No Place To Go If My Housemates Gave My Room To A One-Armed Bandit from Aroostook. I now had a strong urge to curl up in the fetal position and cry like a baby. I managed to refrain.

I spent the next three days in a stupor. I wandered aimlessly up and down the stairs I paid $225 plus utilities per month for. The brown carpet mocked me. My computer mocked me. My car mocked me. My housemates mocked me. Not to my face, of course—I was an Adult, and I could kick their "bedroom in parents' house" butts all the way back to childhood. The shower mocked me. The washer and dryer mocked me. In short, my life was in shambles.

I've had some time to grow accustomed to this whole Being An Adult thing. I even helped my parents move into the new house. I stood in the office (which should have been my bedroom) and glared at the desk, kicked at the bookshelves, smacked the computer, and lit a box of potentially important papers on fire. I did not, however, throw a hissy-fit, a fact that I think shows my supreme maturity. I left the room calmly and shut the door quietly behind me, closing in the scent of burning receipts. I am, after all, an Adult now.

Right now I could be doing Adult things, but there's nothing left to accomplish. My laundry is clean and folded, my bills are paid, and both of my siblings can drive now. Also, one can only use the word "dichotomy" so many times a day before you start sounding ridiculous, and I reached that saturation point long ago. I'm all caught up on my Adult things. I'm ready to go forth in 2005, as an Adult.

Besides, this sofa bed is really comfortable.



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